

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 SSM-03

IO-13 AID-05 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /106 W

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O P 311440Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1645

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 079

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

YUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OK 2 BEIRUT 7187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUGUST 31

REF: (A) BEIRUT 7164, (B) STATE 214989 (NOTAL)

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1. SUMMARY: SARKIS TO VISIT DAMASCUS TODAY.  
UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF SUBSTANTIAL SYRIAN TROOP  
REINFORCEMENTS WORRY PALESTINIANS. BEIRUT  
CONFRONT FRONT

LINE FIRE FIGHTS. BRAWLING WITHIN  
LEBANESE LEFTIST CAMP ON STREETS OF WEST BEIRUT.  
TRIPOLI SEIGE LINE CONTINUES HOT. POSTPONEMENT OF  
ARAB LEAGUE PREPARATORY FONMIN CONFERENCE  
ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO QUESTION OF LEBANESE  
REPRESENTATION. NO MOVEMENT ON ARAB LEAGUE PEACE  
PLAN AS PALESTINIAN LEADER REASSERTS INTEREST ONLY  
IN GLOBAL, NOT PARTIAL, PLAN. KFOUR FRONT TO MEET.  
KFOUR UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND ANNOUNCED, TO BE  
HEADED BY BECHIR GEMAYEL. INDICATIONS OF ARAFAT  
DISENCHANTMENT WITH JUNBLATT. JUNBLATT CONTINUES  
SOFTER LINE. EMBASSY VITAL SUPPLY SITUATION GOOD.  
END SUMMARY.

2. SARKIS. PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS IS SCHEDULED  
VISIT DAMASCUS AUG 31, MEETING PRESIDENT ASSAD BOTH  
IN MORNING AND AFTERNOON, AND RETURNING TO BEIRUT  
ABOUT 1800. PHALANGE POLITICAL BUREAU CHIEF  
PAKRADOUNI SAYS SARKIS AND ASSAD MAY DISCUSS SYRIAN-  
LEBANESE "SECURITY TREATY." A PEACE PLAN WHICH WILL  
QUICKLY END FIGHTING IN LEBANON, SARKIS' FIRST CABINET,  
AND REORGANIZATION OF LEBANESE ARMY. PAKRADOUNI  
DOES NOT THINK SARKIS AND ASSAD WILL DISCUSS SYRIAN  
MILITARY WITHDRAWAL. WE HEAR THAT SARKIS ON AUG 28  
TOLD A VISITOR THAT HE IS HOPEFUL OF PALESTINIAN  
COOPERATION IN WORKING OUT PEACE PLAN. SAEB SALAM  
SAYS SARKIS ALONE CANNOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OR  
SYRIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN LEBANON.

3. GROUND SITUATION. SYRIAN INTENTIONS. AL-MUHARRIR  
REPORTS "INFORMATION BY THE CENTRAL COMMAND"  
(PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST) TO EFFECT THAT SYRIANS ARE  
STRENGTHENING POSITIONS IN JEZZINE AREA AND SENT  
ADDITIONAL 20,000 TROOPS WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND  
ARMOR AUG 28-29 INTO LEBANON. PAPER CLAIMS SYRIANS IN  
LEBANON NOW NUMBER SOME 50,000. LEFTIST RADIO SAYS  
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SYRIAN FORCES IN BEKAA AREA IN STATE OF "ADVANCED  
ALERT." WE UNDERSTAND THAT PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP  
VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SYRIAN REINFORCEMENTS IN BEKAA  
AND METN AREAS. HOWEVER, LEBANESE MILITARY SOURCES  
TELL US THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN  
SYRIAN TROOP STRENGTH. GERRAN CHARGE, WHO TRAVELS  
BEIRUT-DAMASCUS ROAD WEEKLY, TELLS US THAT HE SAW  
NO INCREASED SYRIAN FORCES ALONG ROUTE AUG 30. SOME

PRESS SPECULATION THAT SYRIANS WILL PRESENT SARKIS WITH "FAIT ACCOMPLI" OF SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED FORCES IN LEBANON.

4. BEIRUT AREA. INDISCRIMINATE ARTILLERY SHELLING HAS STOPPED ALMOST COMPLETELY, BUT CONTINUED CLASHES WITH SMALL ARMS, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND GRENADES ALONG CONFRONTATION LINES, PARTICULARLY IN CHIYAH-AIN EL-RUMANNEH AREA WHERE LEFTISTS SAY THEY MADE THREE HEAVY RAIDS. FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN OUTSKIRTS HOWEVER MORE INTENSE AND MORTARS USED. ONE CHRISTIAN SOURCE TELLS US CHRISTIANS HAVE CONCENTRATED SOME THIRTY HEAVY WEAPONS IN YARZE-BAABDA AREA AIMED IN GENERAL DIRECTION OF BEIRUT AIRPORT. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT IRAQIS IN TAYUNI SECTION OF CITY OPERATING AS INDEPENDENT UNIT AND HAVE DISREGARDED NEUTRAL ZONE IN AREA ON MILITARY HOSPITAL WHICH HERETOFORE HAD BEEN RESPECTED BY BOTH SIDES. WITHIN WEST BEIRUT, THERE HAS BEEN BRAWLING BETWEEN MILITIAS OF POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY (JUNBLATT) AND OF SOCIALIST UNION (LED BY KAMEL YOUNES) AFTER INCIDENT IN AIN EL-MREISSE NIGHT OF AUG 29-30 IN WHICH PSP MILITARY LEADER SAAD ZOUHERI WAS KILLED. JUNBLATT AND YOUNES INTERVENED PERSONALLY, AND CALM RESTORED EARLY AUG 30. LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE (FSI) IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE POSSESSION OF VERDUN BARRACKS AUG 31, AND JUDICIAL POLICE ARE SUPPOSED TO TAKE CHARGE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPT AT ST. HOBEICH SEPT 1, FROM "POPULAR FORCES." IN EAST BEIRUT, FIRST CONVOY OF SOME 150 NABAA REFUGEES RETURNED FROM BEKAA UNDER PROTECTION OF PHALANGE AND IMAM MUSA SADR.

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5. ELSEWHERE. IN TRIPOLI AREA, FIGHTING REPORTED IN SOUTHERN SECTOR OF SEIGE LINE NEAR HAS MASKA AND MONT MICHEL. WE HEAR THAT LOCAL LEFTIST LEADER FARUQ MUQADAM IS PREPARED TO GO OVER TO SYRIAN SIDE. IN BEKAA, LEFTIST CLAIM ANOTHER GUERRILLA STYLE RAID AGAINST SYRIANS NEAR SUHMUR. IN MOUNTAINS, HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE CONTINUES, AND THERE WAS FIRE FIGHT NEAR SANNINE. LEFTIST PRESS SAYS BOTH CHRISTIANS AND SYRIANS CONTINUE TO REINFORCE TROOPS IN AREA. IN THE SOUTH, WE UNDERSTAND LAA HAS APPOINTED

MAJOR MUNIR MULLA AS COMMANDER OF TYRE REGION.

6. ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT. REPARATORY FONMIN MEETING IN CAIRO POSTPONED FROM SEPT 1 TO SEPT 4,

BEIRUT PRESS SAYS BECAUSE OF KUWAITI GOVT CRISIS AND ALSO BECAUSE OF CONFLICTING CLAIMS OF KARAME AND CHAMOUN AS TO WHO OUGHT TO REPRESENT LEBANON. PHALANGIST RADIO SPECULATES LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE MIGHT BE AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN ABD EL REHMAN SOLH.

7. ARAB LEAGUE PEACE PLAN. CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL MET AUG 30 TO DISCUSS KFOUR RESPONSE TO AL PROPOSALS PRESENTED LATE LAST WEEK. MEETING OF KFOUR LEADERS WITH AL REPS STILL SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 1; HOWEVER, AL DEPUTY KHOLI STILL IN CAIRO AND MEETING MAY BE POSTPONED. AL MILITARY COMMANDER GENERAL GHONEIM HAS RETURNED TO BEIRUT. PLO NUMBER TWO ABU IYAD TOLD ASSOCIATED PRESS THAT PLO NO INTERESTED IN ANY PLAN WHICH DOES NOT PROPOSE GLOBAL SOLUTION, THEREBY CONTRADICTING RECENT SPECULATION THAT PLO MIGHT ACCEPT PARTIAL ACCORD AFFECTING ONLY MOUNTAIN AREA AS FIRST STEP. NEVERTHELESS, PHALANGIST AND PALESTINIAN SECOND ECHELON REPS CONTINUE CONTACTS, INCLUDING MEETING AT CORAL BEACH HOTEL AUG 30.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 SSM-03 IO-13

AID-05 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /106 W

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O P 311440Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1646

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 080

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC  
(COMSIXTHFLT  
COMPHIBRON FOUR  
COM THREE TWO MAU  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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8. ON THE RIGHT. FIRST KFOUR FRONT MEETING  
(CHAMOUN, GEMAYEL, FRANGIE, PERE KASSIS) IN ONE  
MONTH EXPECTED AUG 31, PERHAPS ENDING RECENT  
COOLING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN GEMAYEL AND FRANGIE.  
FRONT AUG 30 ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT  
MILITARY COMMAND, TO BE HEADED BY BECHIR GEMAYEL.  
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GEORGES ADOUANE OF TANZIM PARTY AS DEPUTY, GEORGES  
HACHEM OF GUARDIANS OF THE CEDAR AS "SECRETARY  
GENERAL," AND COL. KHALIFA AS "COUNSELOR." OTHER  
MEMBERS OF "COMMAND COUNCIL" INCLUDE DANY CHAMOUN  
AND NABIL KARAM OF NATIONAL LIBERALS, FAWZI MAHFOUZ  
OF TANZIM, ABOU ARZ AND SALAH HACHEM OF GUARDIANS  
OF THE CEDAR, AND FOUAD RUKUS OF PHALANGE. WE  
HAVE REPORT THAT PHALANGE IS CURRENTLY PUTTING  
ABOUT 300 MALE RECRUITS AND 200 FEMALE RECRUITS  
THROUGH TRAINING EACH MONTH. WE HAVE REPORT THAT  
FRANGIE IS STILL CONSIDERING REMOVING RASHID KARAME  
AS PRIMIN, WITH RATIONALE THAT, SHOULD SARKIS BE  
UNABLE TO ASSUME OFFICE AS PRESIDENT, OR BE UNABLE  
TO ORGANIZE CABINET, KARAME COULD NOT BE INTRUSTED  
IN CARETAKER ROLE. CHAMOUN SAID TO BE ADVOCATING  
REMOVAL OF KARAME, WITH PIERRE GEMAYEL OPPOSED.

9. ON THE LEFT. WE HEAR THAT ARAFAT IS INCREA SINGLY  
CRITICAL OF JUNBLATT, BLAMING HIM FOR GETTING  
PALESTINIANS INVOLVED IN LEBANESE POLITICS IN FIRST  
PLACE AND PROVOKING QUARREL BETWEEN SYRIA AND PLO  
WHILE NOT SUPPORTING FIGHTING. ARAFAT SAID TO BE  
ANNOYED WITH JUNBLATT'S RECENT STATEMENTS OF  
DETERMINATION TO HOLD POSITIONS IN MOUNTAINS, MADE  
WITHOUT CONSULTING PLO. JUNBLATT PUBLICLY CONTINUES  
RECENTLY DEVELOPED SOFT LINE, SAYING "PEACE MIGHT

COME IN ONE MONTH." AND "SARKIS IS NOT A BAD MAN."  
AN-NAHAR SAYS PERE MUBARAK IS SEEKING ARRANGE  
CONTACTS BETWEEN JUNBLATT AND SYRIANS.  
JUNBLATT SAYS ARAB LEAGUE FORCES HAVE PROVEN  
THEIR EFFECTIVENESS(\*) HE WOULD OBJECT TO A  
SYRIAN-LEBANESE MILITARY TREATY, BUT WOULD NOT  
OBJECT TO AN ARAB LEVEL MUTUAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT.

10. EMBASSY VITAL SUPPLIES. AMEMBASSY BEIRUT AS OF  
AUG 31 HAS 16 DAYS SUPPLY OF MAZOUT (WITH DELIVERY OF  
ADDITIONAL 18-DAY SUPPLY ASSURED FROM LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR);  
32 DAYS SUPPLY OF GASOLINE; 12 DAYS SUPPLY OF POTABLE  
WATER (CAPACITY); AND 38 DAYS SUPPLY OF BUTAGAS.  
LANE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
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04 MAY 2006

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**Type:** TE  
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